English Language
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CWS/13/12

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: October 20, 2025

**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Thirteenth Session**

**Geneva, November 10 to 14, 2025**

Report on TASKs No. 62, no. 63 and no. 65 by the Digital Transformation Task Force

*Document prepared by the Digital Transformation Task Force Leader*

## SUMMARY

The Digital Transformation Task Force is responsible for conducting Tasks No. 62, No. 63 and No. 65. This report provides a summary of the work carried out by the Task Force since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS). In addition, the Task Force presents a working draft of the functional specification for the DOCX2XML converter for the consideration and comments by the CWS.

## BACKGROUND

The Digital Transformation Task Force was established at the sixth session of the CWS and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) was designated as the leader of this Task Force. The Task Force initially began its activities with Task No. 62, which was created and assigned to the Task Force at the same session of the CWS. The description of Task No. 62reads as follows:

*"Review WIPO Standards: ST.6, ST.8, ST.10, ST.11, ST.15, ST.17, ST.18, ST.63 and ST.81 in view of electronic publication of IP documentation; and propose revisions of those Standards if needed."*

(See paragraphs 149 and 150 of document CWS/6/34.)

The aim of this Task is to modernize particular WIPO Standards, as several of these Standards were created when IP offices published documents on paper.

At the seventh and eighth sessions of the CWS, the Task Force presented a plan to discuss existing practices, establish criteria for prioritization and for review of the Standards detailed as part of Task No. 62 (see paragraphs 102 to 104 of document CWS/7/29 and paragraphs 7 to 10 of document CWS/8/18). During the development of its work plan, the Task Force identified the need for more detailed information on current practices of intellectual property (IP) offices, particularly regarding intake and publication procedures. To address this, the Task Force prepared a questionnaire to survey IP office practices, which was submitted for approval at the ninth session (see document CWS/9/17). The results of the survey were subsequently presented at the tenth session of the CWS (see document CWS/10/15).

Additionally, at its seventh session, the CWS supported the reassignment of Task No. 63 to the Digital Transformation Task Force (see paragraphs 39 to 40 of document CWS/7/29). The description of Task No. 63 reads as follows:

*“Develop visual representation(s) of XML data, based on WIPO XML Standards, for electronic publication.”*

Furthermore, at its tenth session, the CWS agreed to create Task No. 65 and assigned it to the Digital Transformation Task Force. The Task Force was requested to give priority to this Task and to present a proposal for a new WIPO standard on the electronic exchange of priority documents at the eleventh session of the CWS. This Task was prompted by the entry into force of WIPO Standard ST.26, to ensure that sequence listings forming part of a priority document can be exchanged in their original format across IP offices. The description of Task No. 65 reads as follows:

*“To prepare a proposal for recommendations on the data package format for the electronic exchange of priority documents and certified copies for patents, marks and industrial designs.”*

(See paragraph 23 and 25 of document CWS/10/22.)

At the same session, the CWS approved the addition of a new activity to the Task Force’s workplan: the development of a common requirements specification for the DOCX2XML converter (see paragraphs 104 and 106 of document CWS/10/22).

At its eleventh session, the CWS agreed to transfer responsibility for updating Part 6.1 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation, originally part of Task No. 62, from the Digital Transformation Task Force to the Public Access to Patent Information (PAPI) Task Force (see paragraph 19 of document CWS/11/28). Subsequently, the CWS approved a revision to the description of Task No. 62 as follows:

*“Review paper or image-based WIPO Standards in view of electronic filing and publication and exchange of IP documentation and propose revisions of those Standards or new recommendations if needed; and prepare a proposal for the recommendation on a common requirements specification for a DOCX to XML (DOCX2XML) converter.“*

(See paragraph 59 of document CWS/11/28.)

At the same session, the Task Force presented a proposal for a new WIPO standard on priority document exchange. The CWS considered the proposed standard was not mature enough to be adopted and requested the Task Force to prepare and present an updated proposal for consideration at its twelfth session. (See paragraphs 111 and 113 of document CWS/11/28.)

At its twelfth session, the CWS noted that the Task Force had conducted a review and performed an analysis of the functionality of DOCX2XML converters in use at the USPTO and at the International Bureau. The analysis has been consolidated as a concise specification and posted for comment on the Task Force wiki. At the same session, the CWS encouraged IP offices that are currently using a DOCX2XML converter to share information with the Digital Transformation Task Force regarding the functionalities of their converter.

At the same session, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.92, which sets recommendations for the electronic exchange of priority patent documents. The CWS agreed to a tentative sunset date of June 30, 2027, and requested the Digital Transformation Task Force draft a survey questionnaire on preparedness for implementation of WIPO ST.92. The CWS requested that the Secretariat issue a circular inviting IP offices to respond to the survey and that the Task Force report the survey results at the thirteenth CWS session. The CWS also noted that the International Bureau plans to update the WIPO Digital Access Service (WIPO DAS) to support WIPO ST.92-compliant documents. This update was discussed with WIPO DAS Participating Offices, at the Working Group on the Digital Access Service for Priority Documents meeting, held from March 10 to 12, 2025. The outcome of the meeting was discussed at the Digital Transformation Task Force subsequent meetings. Following the adoption of the new Standard, the CWS approved the proposal for the revised description of Task No. 65 which reads as follows:

*“Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standard ST.92 and support IP offices for their implementation of the Standard before July 1, 2027.”*

(See paragraphs 80 to 84 of document CWS/12/29.)

## PROGRESS Report on Task No. 62

Following the agreement at the tenth session of the CWS, the Task Force began developing consolidated requirements specification for converting DOCX documents to XML. This activity began by reviewing existing DOCX2XML converters used by the USPTO, the International Bureau and other IP offices. A working draft of DOCX2XML converter functional specification document, is presented for comments by the CWS as the Annex to the present document. Feedback on the use of DOCX2XML converters was received from the USPTO, the International Bureau, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP) - the former Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO). The details of those IP offices’ DOCX2XML conversion can be found in Annex I of the draft specification document.

### Potential challenges or dependencies

The Task Force notes that many IP offices have just started using or planned to use XML for patent processing. The significant variability in IP office practices and IT priorities may be challenging to further develop the draft functional specification.

### Work Plan

The Task Force will continue discussion on the common DOCX2XML converter functional specification document, monitor the DOCX to XML conversion experiences of IP offices and update the specification document as necessary.

## PROGRESS Report ON TASK NO. 63

The Digital Transformation Task Force has prioritized the work of Task No. 65 and secondarily Task No. 62. This has limited their capacity to make progress on Task No. 63. As such, work on this Task has not been conducted since the eleventh session of the CWS.

### Potential challenges or dependencies

No challenges or dependencies are reported as no work has been conducted since the eleventh session of the Committee.

### Work Plan

The Task Force Task Force may restart its work on this Task upon request by the CWS.

## PROGRESS Report ON TASK NO. 65

Since the twelfth session of the CWS, the Digital Transformation Task Force has prepared a proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.92. The proposed version 2.0 of the Standard extends its scope to include industrial designs and trademark priority documents. The Task Force submits this proposal of the revised Standard for consideration and adoption at the current session. Approval of the revised WIPO Standard ST.92 will enable IP offices and the WIPO DAS team to move forward with detailed implementation planning. IP offices are encouraged to provide and accept certified priority document packages compliant with WIPO Standard ST.92. Further details regarding the proposed revised WIPO Standard ST.92 are available in document CWS/13/20.

In response to the request made at the previous session of the CWS, the Task Force this year developed a survey questionnaire to evaluate IP offices’ readiness to implement WIPO Standard ST.92 by the proposed sunset date. Further details regarding the survey results are available in document CWS/13/20.

### Potential challenges or dependencies

Once the revised Standard is approved, the Task Force will focus on implementation planning by working with the International Bureau and WIPO DAS teams. The implementation process will be dependent on Offices making changes to:

* IT systems to generate packages compliant with the new WIPO Standard format;
* Implement WIPO DAS API as needed; and
* Legal or administrative guidelines if needed.

Changes to the WIPO DAS system will also be needed so it can process packages received in the new PDDP format.

### Work Plan

The next activities foreseen for this Task Force in the upcoming year are:

* To continue to support implementation planning for the WIPO Standard ST.92. Changes to the Standard may be needed based on feedback from IPOs and their experiences during their implementation;
* To continue working with the WIPO DAS team to make the necessary updates for WIPO ST.92; and
* To support Offices to implement the revised WIPO ST.92 version 2.0, once approved.

*The CWS is invited to:*

1. *note the content of the present document and its Annex;*
2. *review and comment on the working draft of the DOCX2XML Converter Functional Specification Document, as referred in paragraph 11 above and reproduced in the Annex to the present document; and*
3. *note the work plan as indicated in paragraphs 13, 16 and 20 above.*

[Annex follows]